THE EXAMINER.

No. 48. SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1808.

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few.
SWIFT.

No. 48.

BOARD OF INQUIRY.

The two Convention Flints, which every body has of late been striking to procure a little light into the business, have got into fierce collision at Chelsea, and if in some respects they only make darkness visible, they certainly throw light on each other. Sir HEW, with a few delicate side touches, though at every touch he loses something of himself, has elicited more than one angry spark from Sir ARTHUR; while Sir ARTHUR'S friends cannot contrive, with all their mouths and their face-makings, to puff these sparks into any thing brilliant: every light they raise only serves to shew their own hideous countenances and the rubbish at which they are puffing.

The most striking contrast in the two depositions of these Gentlemen is their cordial concurrence in the principles of the Convention, while at the same time they evidently wish to throw the whole affair from their respective shoulders upon each other. Now every impartial person is willing, I believe, in general to take the word of any Military Gentleman, though as to the flattery of believing a man because he is "a Gentleman and an *Officer*," as the phrase is, it is a piece of nonsense very impertinent to the present age. When two Generals however directly contradict each other, when one says, "You did," and the other, "I did not," and both of them talk thus with an evident wish to get rid of some matter in question, two inferences may very fairly be drawn: first, that at least one of them must tell an untruth; and second, that *they themselves, both of them, look upon the circumstance in question as a wrong one, whether they brought it about or not.*

Sir HEW says, that he was appointed to supersede WELLESLEY with a particular injunction from Lord CASTLEREAGH "to cultivate the confidence and at all times to profit by the advice" of that Officer. Accordingly he went to Portugal it seems with *no intention whatever of superseding* Sir ARTHUR, though he afterwards changed his mind. He tells us however, that he consulted Sir ARTHUR upon the relative interests and principles of the proceedings in Portugal, and that when he agreed to the Armistice, the other objected to nothing but it's duration. Sir ARTHUR also, according to this Gentleman's statement, did actually and principally discuss the business with Gen. KELLERMANN, while he himself was talking at a window with "*a cunning Frenchman*," whom he recollects to have seen but three years ago in London. It always appeared to me, that a good knowledge of the French language was requisite to a proper comprehension of French intrigue, and Sir HEW confesses that he was unable to understand KELLERMANN properly, since the "cunning Frenchman" aforesaid offered to be his interpreter. In fine, to prove the good opinion which Sir ARTHUR entertained of the Armistice, he instances the letter written by that Officer to the Bishop of Oporto, who by mistake sent his answer to Sir HEW himself instead of WELLESLEY.

Sir ARTHUR on the other hand, though he approves of the general principles of the Armistice, talks of it in a very sullen and contemptuous manner. He appears to have understood the wishes of Lord CASTLEREAGH with respect to his own influence over Sir HEW, and to have been disappointed in one or two instances because the latter resisted it. But upon particulars they differ exceedingly; and Sir ARTHUR says, not only that he disliked more than one (I suppose two) of the articles, but that when he was *called from another apartment* to sign them, he pronounced the paper to be a very *extraordinary one and very extraordinarily drawn up*, and THEN SIGNED IT! As to the letter to the Bishop of OPORTO, he *may* have written such a thing, but *he really does not recollect* whether he did or no. This want of memory, to say the least of it, is always very suspicious in cases like the present, and will certainly be of no service to Sir ARTHUR'S general character. A letter written to the ostensible head of a nation concerning it's dearest interests is not likely to have escaped the recollection of the writer so soon; BONAPARTE, I think, would not have forgotten it, unless it were from *mere policy*; and whether Sir ARTHUR wrote it or not, the forgetfulness is not very creditable to such a head as a General's ought to be. If he did however, he tells us that it was nothing at all to the present question, since the opinion expressed in that letter, that the Armistice contains nothing remarkable except the French evacuation, was very true *with respect to the Portuguese.* What he means by attributing to the Portuguese this little interest in their own fate is not very apparent; but it appears to me, that if Sir ARTHUR really used his own words in this restricted sense, he very much injured the Portuguese, who, if any

people at all were concerned, were the most concerned themselves, of all others, in an agreement, which was to influence their very existence as a nation.

From all this we can gather, I think, a tolerably exact idea of the manner in which the Armistice was concluded. When Sir Hew found that Wellesley agreed with him concerning the evacuation of the French, the love of power and the pride of being the ostensible person in driving the conquerors of Europe from Portugal, became irresistible to his military nerves, and though he adopted Sir Arthur's opinions in general, he was determined, in spite of his former unsophisticated modesty, to shew that he was the master there. Accordingly he pretends at Cintra, though he has not pretended at Chelsea, to influence the discussion of the Armistice, but was compelled in fact to give it up to Sir Arthur. Kellermann then, who appears to have judged accurately of human nature in the business of *superseding*, and to have known something of the characters of both the hostile Generals, takes with him a "cunning Frenchman," as Sir Hew calls him with so much simplicity, to confuse the gallant Commander's head at a window, while the matter was settled with Sir Arthur, who was *disgusted with his own brother officer*. It is in this stage of the business that the statements of the two Generals so materially clash. From Sir Arthur it would appear, that he had very little, if any thing, to do with the business, but the mere task of signing, and that he expressed his surprise at what he himself was sanctioning: from Sir Hew it would seem, that Wellesley was not only the principal person concerned, but that when he signed the Armistice he expressed no disapprobation according to the *best of Sir Hew's recollection*. The Judges must smile at these sort of phrases.

In the end therefore, both the Generals appear to have been wrong, though in different respects. It still remains to be proved, that the permission of evacuation, in which they both agreed, was erroneous; but Sir Hew was evidently wrong in deciding upon terms which the very men, from whom he professed to gather knowledge for his proceedings, decidedly condemned, particularly with regard to the Russian fleet. The indecision of his character is sufficiently shewn by his wavering resolutions in superseding Sir Arthur, and no weakness could have been more consummate, than his consent to listen to an officious Frenchman, whom he had known in London but three years before, who addressed him in very bad English, probably on purpose to make him speak French, and whose designs he himself has at length discovered by the pretty little peevish epithet he has given him. The *cunning* Frenchman! What shrugs and nods, and lifted eyebrows, and raised hands, and contemptuous epithets, must this wizard and M. Kellermann have used, when they returned to Junot! On the other hand, if Sir Arthur thought Dalrymple foolish in granting some of the terms of the Armistice, certainly he himself must have been *doubly wrong in seeing the folly and yet giving it his sanction, when he confesses too that he might very well have refused it.* It is earnestly to be hoped, that Sir A. did not forget his country to indulge a mere pique, which however it might be justified in feeling, would have been disgraceful in practice. Yet he really appears to have been carried away into error, first by his ardour, and secondly, by disgust; for in the first place, he never should have sailed without the proper supplies of horses, or disgusted the Portuguese by keeping them at a distance; and secondly, he should never have signed an Armistice, which in some measure he evidently regards as needless and disgraceful. And this consideration finally brings me to the conduct of Ministers on the occasion, to the object and real result of the Convention, and to the present military order of things.

It is now certainly proved, that the Ministers have had more to do with this unfortunate business than they would willingly acknowledge, and that, with respect to the greater part of them at least, their feelings were not very much downcast when they ordered the bells to be rung and the guns to be fired. But opposite interests evidently harassed them from some quarter, and reduced them to a state of indecision and division, in which they did not know whom to appoint for the assistance of the Continent. Celerity was every way of the utmost importance, and yet they not only wavered a long time before they appointed a temporary Commander, but even when they had selected a man universally respected for his military talents, and even when this man had gained an important victory, they send out, God knows why, another officer to take the command, who had not only never exhibited any talent whatever, but who in the first instance absolutely blushed himself to assume it! And what has been the consequence of the delays and heart-burnings occasioned by this wretched want of dignity? Why, when every officer concerned, Sir Hew, Sir Arthur, General Ferguson, and all, state it to have been the great object of the evacuation to be able to send a British force to occupy the Spanish passes and intercept the French, we have reason to believe that the enemy have been beating the poor Spaniards, and that Bonaparte is already perhaps at Madrid, while not a single Englishman from Lisbon has reached the contending armies.

Thus do the corruptions of our military system pervade every part of the Government and palsy its endeavours. Much of our present delay in Lisbon is most probably owing to the fearful disgust which the inhabitants have taken against us. Sir A. Wellesley says he could have supplied the Portuguese army with provisions, had it not been the fault of our Com-

missariat, so that either this accusation is a gross libel on that department, or the Commissariat itself is a gross libel on the understandings and best interests of the Government. As to the horses, which were so necessary to enable us to pursue our advantages over the French, it appears that the number of horse in general, whether cavalry or artillery, was not only insufficient, but that the latter, instead of being able to march through the heavy roads and hot climate of Portugal, were of the worst species in the United Kingdom, according to Sir ARTHUR's statement; and for the greater part lame, blind, and useless, according to Sir HEW's. The reason given for this exquisite addition to our strength would be the most laughable in the world, if indeed it were not the most lamentable. It was feared, it seems, that the proper horses, which of course are stout and strong animals, would have *suffered too much at sea*. I cannot comprehend this! Too much, for what? For parading the towns of England with harmless cannon at their tails and five or six gay dragoons with drawn swords before them? Too much for the maid-servants gaping out of garret windows at the nodding feathers, the brave noise of the cannon-wheels, and the fine portly beasts that have never yet seen service or been at sea? I know there are many men of high rank, and military men too, who prefer the company of horses to that of men; but I did not suppose, after their hard riding, and racing, and rushing about in post coaches till the animals die, that they would have been more tender of horses than of men. Upon the principle of the thing, they ought at least to have had as great a fear for all the fine stout fellows they have sent to Portugal, and at least have gone about, like the holiday maker in Scripture, picking up the lame, the blind, and the halt, to suit with the animals that were to *drive the French out of the Continent*. But I suppose they were afraid the good horses would be sick—sea-sick and full of sighs like a set of young milliners gallanted to Gravesend on a Sunday! The Lord help us.—A writer when he comes to such subjects as these has nothing to do but to cry "Pshaw," and throw down his pen in mere misery.

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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE.

Copy of a letter from a Gentleman in a high situation in the army of Sir D. Baird, dated at Villalba, between Corunna and Lugo, at which last place the army has arrived:—

"Notwithstanding we are at a pause, my situation leaves me scarce a moment's respite; but I will not let an opportunity of writing pass at this most critical moment. My original opinion of the impossibility of the Spanish levies withstanding the shock of equal numbers of disciplined troops, is fully confirmed. Reports of the most disastrous nature, respecting Blake's army, are hourly received. Couriers, priests, and country people arrive in numbers. It is impossible to collect the truth from such a confusion of accounts, but where nothing but calamitous reports are heard, there can be no doubt that the French have succeeded; to what extent cannot be ascertained, perhaps even by the Commander in Chief, who is, however, I am certain, from many circumstances, in possession of alarming intelligence. I will not hazard the communication of uncertain information, and especially when it is of so gloomy a nature, as that to which we can indeed hardly refuse our belief. This is however certain, the French have advanced considerably. How far we know not. We know that a corps of Spanish troops on their march from Madrid for Burgos, were completely surprised and routed by the French, who had passed through that place some leagues, and were marching south on the very route which the Spaniards were pursuing. You may judge by this of the rapidity of the French. Nothing can exceed the inveteracy of the lower classes in Spain against them. It is otherwise with the higher ranks, for it has been a complete revolution of the people. If the French have succeeded to the extent which is reported, our junction with the army of Sir J. Moore, will be very difficult. It is the most extraordinary thing imaginable, that whilst Sir John's army is almost perishing with hunger, and obliged to proceed in small detachments, a day's march asunder, the French push on, without seeming to experience any difficulty of supply. The patience of the British is incredible: but they are not seasoned; and are too much accustomed to ease and good living at home, to bear a campaign in this country, without suffering greatly. The young ones will be sadly cut up. The French troops bear it better than ours, and the wants and emergencies of our army have not been so well provided against at home, as those of the French are. Their War Department seems to provide for every contingency—We are sadly deficient in some respects. Great anxiety prevails for Moore's army, of the situation of which we have no certain information."

"*Corunna, Nov. 18 (Night.)*

"This morning's post has brought no letters from Burgos, *nor even from Valladolid*. At Lugo, yesterday, the greatest alarm seems to have reigned. A letter from that place says, that the French are at 'Burgos and Valladolid, &c.' If this be correct, the communication with Madrid may probably soon be interrupted, as Valladolid does not lie very wide of the road to the capital. The same letter adds, that the advanced posts of the English, under General Baird, have stopped at Leon, and that they are about to take possession of the passes of Gallicia. This will be a measure of infinite importance to this province, and not insignificant in its connection with the general operations of the campaign. Other reports state that the army of Estremadura, of which mention was made a few days ago as marching to the relief of Burgos, has been totally defeated. The Spanish troops were in flight, and some of them, it is said, had reached Benevente. This is, I believe, the sum of more recent current rumours. Fear may have magnified the evil, but there is no doubt that a great reverse has been sustained.

"From Madrid, but little information can be derived; yet there has been time for the receipt of intelligence, connected with these events; even from Madrid, letters of the 12th state, that bad tidings had reached the metropolis, and that the French had cut off one division of the Spanish army at Burgos, which they entered at daybreak on the 9th.

"The other intelligence from Madrid would give us pleasure, if we could credit good news from a distance, when things nearer us are going on ill. We are assured, that in Arragon the Spaniards are fighting bravely and successfully. Some accounts say, that the Patriot forces were pushing forward with great vigour on the side of Pampeluna.

"The Central Junta has confirmed General Blake in the command of the army of the left, and appointed Romana to the command of the centre.

"I have but one other circumstance to mention, and that I regret is not less unpleasant than the preceding: the state of Sir John Moore's army. It is in a very sickly condition. The number of those confined I have heard estimated at 8000. Sir John is at Salamanca, and it is said, he has expressed a wish, that the later divisions of the army, which have marched from Coruna, should join him as soon as convenient between Astorga, the present head-quarters of those troops, and Salamanca, where Sir John lately was.

"Recent events will probably alter all the arrangements of the English Generals."

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

On Saturday se'nnight, as a waggon belonging to Mr. Sparke, of Westfield, was going to Norwich, it was overtaken on the Dereham road, by two other teams, when the driver of the first waggon was forced to draw close to the side of the road, and unfortunately it happened where there was a large gravel-pit, quite open; and being dark, the horses took fright, and, turning suddenly round, the wheels locked, and the axle-tree was broken, upon which the waggon, laden with 40 coombs of barley (on the top of which were riding a poor woman of the name of Sapy, with her daughter, and a brother of the driver), were all precipitated to the bottom of the pit, and the barley and waggon falling upon them, it was some time before they could discover the sufferers; when, shocking to relate, the mother and daughter were taken out lifeless, the former of whom was far advanced in pregnancy—and both had scarcely a bone of any consequence unbroken. The poor boy was rescued with very little injury, owing to a part of the waggon falling in such a way as to protect him from being crushed by the barley. The husband of the unfortunate woman is left to lament his loss with eight small children; the daughter, who lost her life with her mother, was the eldest, 16 years of age. The bodies were removed to the public-house at Stone-hills, where the Coroner's Inquest sat on them. Verdict—Accidental Death.

HAMPSHIRE.—A County Meeting was on Wednesday held at Winchester, to consider of a proper person to be nominated to succeed to the late Sir H. St. JOHN MILDMAY, Bart. in the representation of this county.—The Hon. Mr. HERBERT was proposed by Sir T. MILLER.—Mr. HEATHCOTE was proposed by Sir J. POLLEN.—Mr. PORTALL, of Laverstock, called on the Electors to give their votes to such of the Candidates as they thought were from their principles most entitled to expect it, and recommended Mr. Herbert to their choice.—Mr. COBBETT, after stating his disapprobation of the hasty and indecent manner in which the County had been called together, their late Member being scarcely buried, called the attention of the Meeting to the various places and pensions held by Members of the House of Commons, the whole of which he distinctly enumerated, and in particular, the great patronage given to the Right Hon. G. Rose, the Dictator of the County of Hants, who had, by himself and family, already received *three hundred thousand pounds of the public money*; and requested the Meeting not to give their votes to either of the candidates, unless they had a distinct pledge from such candidate, to oppose the growing evil of pensions and places, and to maintain to the utmost that most valuable of all privileges of the Constitution, viz. the right of the subject to petition the Throne. Mr. Cobbett declared he would never give his vote to any man who held a place, or who would not distinctly promise not to do so; and after most severely censuring the conduct of his Majesty's present Ministers, in the Answer given to the Address of the City of London, in the late Convention, he concluded with an address to the audience on the valuable privileges they were now about to exercise.—Mr. BROWN severely condemned Mr. Herbert's principles.—After the two Candidates had addressed the Meeting, the Sheriff desired the friends of each to hold up their hats; when the Sheriff declared Mr. Heathcote to have a majority, and the Meeting was then dissolved. The day of election is not fixed.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

James Beattie, Longton, Cumberland, merchant.

BANKRUPTS.

B. Dawson, jun. Wolverhampton, japanner, to surrender Dec. 12, at four, 30, and Jan. 3, at eleven, at the Jernigham Arms Inn, Shiffnall. Attorney, Mr. Biddle, Wolverhampton.

R. Gore, Liverpool, linen-draper, Dec. 21, 22, Jan. 3, at eleven, at the George Inn, Liverpool. Attorney, Mr. Forrest, Liverpool.

W. Thorneley, Corubrook, Lancashire, dyer, Dec. 14, 15, Jan. 3, at two, at the Dog Tavern, Manchester. Attornies, Messrs. Kearsley and Cardwell, Manchester.

Wm. Blyth, Sheffield, mercer, Dec. 1, 2, Jan. 3, at one, at the Tontine Inn, Sheffield. Attornies, Messrs. Parker and Brown, Sheffield.

E. Stamford, York-street, Commercial-road, flour-factor, Nov. 29, Dec. 10, Jan. 3, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Hunt, Warwick-court, Holborn.

J. Leman, Ramsgate, shopkeeper, Nov. 23, at two, 26, Dec. 31, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Clatton, St. Thomas's-street, Borough.

J. Parsons, Cheapside, warehouseman, Nov. 29, Dec. 10, Jan. 3, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Foulkes, Southampton-street, Covent-garden.

W. Pearce, Dover, cordwainer, Nov. 29, Dec. 6, Jan. 3, at ten, at Guildhall, London. Attorney, Mr. Allan, Frederick's-place, Old Jewry, London.

DIVIDENDS.

Feb. 14. C. and N. Husey, Newgate-street, linen-drapers.—Dec. 24. H. Spencer, West Wratting, Cambridge, maltster.—Dec. 17. W. Phillips, Rochester, tailor.—Feb. 18. J. R. Wilkinson, Horsleydown, cooper.—Dec. 23. C. Glover, Albemarle-street, upholsterer.—Dec. 13. C. Morton, Croydon, horse-dealer.—Jan. 30. J. Stevens and J. Carter, Bread-street, warehousemen.—Dec 6. T. White, Southwark, haberdasher.—Dec. 19. R. Goulden, Liverpool, merchant.—Dec. 15. A. Woodward, Liverpool, wine-merchant.—Dec. 29. H. Andrews, Canterbury, seedsman.—Dec. 21. E. Faulding, Gainsborough, linen-draper.—Dec. 29. P. Blatchford, Lifton, Devonshire, miller.—Dec. 14. J. Varley, Manchester, drysalter.—Jan. 30. W. Thompson, Southwark, and E. Leadbeter, Lambeth, merchants.—Dec. 13. N. Rust, Rotherfield, Peppard, Oxfordshire, miller.—Dec. 17. J. Peen, Leather-lane, oilman.—Jan. 7. W. Arkham, Tokenhouse-yard, broker.—Dec. 17. J. E. Daniels, Coleman-street, merchant. Dec. 31. S. Fuller, Cambridge, draper.—Dec. 6. G. Davis, Cranburn-street, linen-draper.—Dec. 17. H. G. Beetson, Gray's-inn-square, money-scrivener.—Dec. 27. C. Baker, Lambeth, flour-factor.—Dec. 24. M. Joel, Shoreditch, dealer in glass.—Dec. 13. B. Ross, New City Chambers, merchant.—Dec. 17. T. Byrchmore, Market-street, Oxford-market, victualler.—Dec. 15. R. Eccles, Chorley, Lancashire, cotton-manufacturer.—Dec. 13. M. Medford, Finsbury-square, merchant.—Dec. 11. R. Chambers, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, ironmonger.—Dec. 17. G. E. Sargeant, Portsea, slopseller.

CERTIFICATES—Dec. 13.

E. Johnson, Bleeding-heart-yard, Hatton-garden, cabinet-maker.—S. Shallcross and R. Barnes, Manchester.

cotton-manufacturers.—S. Worthington, Hurst, Lancaster, muslin-manufacturer.—F. C. A. Samwell, Devize, clothier.—J. Keartland, Birmingham, wood-screw-maker.—J. Clark, Long-lane, Bermondsey, hide-salesman.—T. Smalldridge, Stoke-in-tinhead, Devonshire, butcher.—N. Kent, Newcastle-upon Tyne, linen-draper.—G. Harrison and J. Watson, Noble-street, hosiers.—R. Bryan, Greek-street, Soho, tallow-chandler.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BY THE KING.—A PROCLAMATION.

GEORGE R.

Whereas our Parliament stands prorogued to Thursday the 8th day of December next, we, with the advice of our Privy Council, do hereby publish and declare, that the said Parliament shall be further prorogued on the said 8th day of December next, to Monday the 16th day of January next; and we have given order to our Chancellor of that part of our United Kingdom called Great Britain, to prepare a Commission for proroguing the same accordingly: and we do further hereby, with the advice aforesaid, declare our royal will and pleasure that the said Parliament shall, on the said 16th day of January next, be held and sit for the dispatch of divers urgent and important affairs; and the Lords spiritual and temporal, and the Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses, and the Commissioners for Shires and Burghs, of the House of Commons, are hereby required and commanded to give their attendance accordingly, at Westminster, on the said 16th day of January next.

Given at our Court at the Queen's palace the 23d day of November 1808, in the 49th year of our reign.

GOD save the KING.

[This Gazette contains also an account of the capture of the French privateer lugger L'Egayant, of 14 guns and 31 men, by the Kangaroo sloop, Capt. Baker.]

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

J. E. Batley and J. Hinchliffe, Meltham, Almondbury, Yorkshire, dyers.

BANKRUPTS.

C. W. Apthorp, Bridge-street, Blackfriars, merchant, to surrender Dec. 3, 10, Jan. 7, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Smith, Hatton-garden.

R. Rouse, Minster, Isle of Sheppy, carpenter, Dec. 10, 13, Jan. 7, at one, at Guildhall, London. Attorney, Mr. Silvester, Field-court, Gray's-inn.

F. Willats, Brewer-street, Golden-square, cheesemonger, Dec. 3, 17, Jan. 7, at ten, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Gatty and Haddan, Angel-court, Throgmorton-street.

R. Rasell, Shoreham, Kent, shopkeeper, Nov. 29, Dec. 10, Jan. 7, at twelve, at Guildhall, London. Attorney, Mr. Ware, Blackman-street, Southwark.

T. Jones, High Holborn, looking-glass manufacturer, Dec. 6, 17, at one, Jan. 7, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Allingham, St. John's-square.

H. Parry, Llangollen, Denbighshire, grocer, Nov. 29, Dec. 12, Jan. 7, at eleven, at the Cross Keys Inn, Oswestry, Salop. Attorney, Mr. Edwards, Oswestry.

T. Silverwood, Settle, Yorkshire, innkeeper, Dec. 16, 17, Jan. 7, at eleven, at the Black Horse, Skipton. Attorney, Mr. Carr, Skipton.

A. Deck, Cambridge, chemist, Nov. 30, Dec. 5, Jan. 7, at ten, at the Red Lion Inn, Cambridge. Attorney, Mr. Cooper, Cambridge.

T. Mayor, Liverpool, stationer, Dec. 26, 27, Jan. 7, at twelve, at the Globe Tavern, Liverpool. Attorney, Mr. Woods, Liverpool.

J. Gibbs, Hallisham, Sussex, innkeeper, Dec. 5, 6, Jan. 7, at eleven, at the Crown Inn, Hallisham. Attorney, Mr. Willard, Battle.

J. Edeston, Liverpool, stationer, Dec. 26, 27, Jan. 7, at one, at the Globe Tavern, Liverpool. Attorney, Mr. Woods, Liverpool.

J. and H. Abbey, Leicester, hosiers, Dec. 3, 10, Jan. 7, at eleven, at Guildhall, London. Attorney, Mr. Brookes, Hind-court, Fleet-street.

A. Asser, Great Russell-street, Covent-garden, chinaman, Dec. 3, 10, Jan. 7, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Bousfield, Bouverie-street, Fleet-street.

DIVIDENDS.

Jan. 28. J. Fenner, Lawrence-lane, linen-draper.—Dec. 27. J. Sayer, Upper North-place, Gray's-inn-lane, and J. Jeffery, Titchfield-street, Mary-le-bone, dealers.—Dec. 26. Wm. Cowperthwaite and J. Waring, Manchester, manufacturers.—Dec. 17. S. Bull, Brewer-street, Golden-square, tallow-chandler.—Feb. 14. W. C. Johnson and J. Whiltshire, Huntingdon, drapers.—Dec. 21. J. Cause, Great Wakering, Essex, shopkeeper.—Dec. 17. J. Campbell, Covent-garden, vintner.—Dec. 24. M. Leet, Little Russell-street, Covent-garden, vintner.—Jan. 30. M. Moore, Albemarle-street, Hanover-square, fancy dress-maker.—Dec. 19. Wm. Smith, Wolverhampton, butcher.—Dec. 20, T. Bowen, Rhodiad, Pembrokeshire, shopkeeper.—Dec. 17. G. Southard, New Bond-street, linen-draper.—Dec. 20. T. Vinn, Clement's-lane, Lombard-street, dealer.—Jan. 30. R. Whalley, Cullam-street, Fenchurch-street, brandy-merchant.—Jan. 31. S. Davis, Saint Mary Axe, merchant.—Dec. 19. Wm. Dickinson, Upholland, Lancashire, plumber and glazier.—Dec. 21. G. Crocker, Bideford, Devonshire, shipbuilder.—Dec. 17. S. Hopkins, Leeds, merchant.—Feb 4. D. Crombie, Great Hermitage-street, mariner. Dec. 29. T. I. Watkis, Salford, Lancashire, cotton-merchant.

CERTIFICATES—DEC. 17.

J. Potter and W. Monkman, Silver-street, warehousemen.—T. Wetherherd, Liverpool, broker.—J. Girdler, Lambeth-road, sword-cutler.—C. Wright, Aldgate, tobacconist.—W. Ham and W. Aust, Cow Cross-street, brass-founders.—H. Hart, Great Coram-street, auctioneer.

The Rook sloop of war, from Jamaica to London, with about 30,000 dollars on board, was attacked off St. Domingo by two French privateers, who laid her alongside, when a most desperate action took place. The enemy were much superior to the British sloop, with respect to number of men, guns, and weight of metal. Notwithstanding, she did not strike until every man on board was killed or wounded, the Lieutenant who commanded excepted.

On Monday, the Standard, of 64 guns, arrived at Portsmouth from Malta and Gibraltar, with a convoy of about forty sail; she left Malta on the 26th September, and Gibraltar on the 26th of October. This is the ship which, in repassing the castles of the Dardanelles, was struck by a stone shot of 772lbs. weight, which killed and wounded 54 men. She also fell in with and reconnoitred the Rochefort and Toulon squadrons, in March last, off Corfu; and had it not been for her superior sailing, must have been inevitably taken, as she was chased by them several times.

Buenos Ayres is supposed at last to have declared for the patriotic cause. It is not unlikely that this colony will shortly proclaim its independence. LINIERS is said to have acted rather a doubtful part; but he is no longer in power.

PRICE OF STOCKS YESTERDAY.

Consols.....66.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A Correspondent who has seen the Political Motto of the EXAMINER attributed to POPE, and who wishes to know the Editor's reasons for giving it to SWIFT, is informed, that in the various editions of POPE and SWIFT's Miscellanies, it has been attributed to both indiscriminately. If a volume of Miscellanies appeared with POPE's name only, it was given to POPE; if with SWIFT's only, to SWIFT; but the fact is, that the EXAMINER has chosen rather to trace it to the latter, for three reasons:—first, because POPE had an acknowledged knack of scribbling down every neat little saying of his friend; second, because it is a concise and pithy saying, and therefore more in SWIFT's style as a prose writer; and third, because it is a very shrewd political maxim, and therefore more in SWIFT's way as a politician; and it may be observed, that though the great wit was a violent party-man himself, yet he affected to regard all party-matters with great contempt.—A Newspaper Editor therefore in this Motto has a double lesson continually before him, the spirit of the maxim contrasted with the real spirit of its author.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, NOVEMBER 27.

THE reports concerning Spain continue to grow more melancholy every hour, and however unwilling the public may feel to believe them, from the gallantry of the Spaniards, and the difficulties attending the invasion of their country, yet the Junta at Madrid are at no pains whatever to elucidate the matter and calm the universal anxiety. Some reports say, that the French have merely entered Burgos, others that they are at Valladolid, and others again that by this time they have probably *arrived at the Capital*. It was already known, that BLAKE had *thought fit* to change his positions at encreasing distances from the frontiers, and these phrases mean that he was compelled to retreat. A very curious letter, which will be found under the Foreign Head, from a Gentleman in Sir DAVID BAIRD's Army, says that it is certain the French have succeeded against BLAKE, have advanced considerably, and have surprised and completely routed a Spanish corps on their march from Madrid for Burgos. In contrast with this characteristic rapidity, Sir JOHN MOORE's Army is obliged to proceed in small detachments a day's march asunder, and Sir DAVID BAIRD has advanced but a few days' march in the same manner from Corunna. It is even reckoned probable that the French have got between the two armies, which know nothing of each other's situation and are almost perishing with hunger and fatigue. Much of this ill-fortune is attributed not only to the unusual food, or rather the want of food, on our side, but to the very miserable inferiority of our Commissariat to that of the French. The Commissariat, which is accused alike by friends and foes, by Sir ARTHUR and Sir HEW as well as their opponents, should have doubled all their prudence on the present occasion, since it is well known that in a country like Spain, the English, accustomed as they are to solid living, can hardly exist upon double the provision that will suffice the enemy. Even in common life, a hearty Englishman will eat as much meat in a day, as tossed about in ragouts, analysed in hashes, and quintessenced in soups, will serve a Frenchman for a week; so that when a British army goes into Spain badly victualled and is obliged to separate in small parts to hunt for provision in the villages, like a herd of cattle looking for patches of grass on a dusty road, they will at best go but sluggishly forward; nay, they will even be half-starved in the midst of what the Spaniards would call plenty, that is, in the midst of onions and fruits, which are so much solid air to an appetite accustomed to meat; and it is from this wretched living that our armies are by this time most probably afflicted with the flux and the dysentery, which are more fatal enemies to us in such a climate and country than all the swords of NAPOLEON.

It would be as well to know, what sort of physicians and surgeons have accompanied the troops, for the corruptions of the Medical Board are notorious; interest sets at nought the bodies as well as the minds, the health as well as talent, of our soldiers; and there is much reason to suspect that old and experienced medical men, who have been every way accustomed to a hot climate, have been set aside in the present expedition for young and inexperienced adventurers, who will find Spain a very different place from what they imagined, and will probably suffer too much themselves to be able to look after their fellow patients.

So much for our decisive Ministers, for the "great object" of the Convention, and for the present Military System. People may wonder as long as they please, and cry out "It is very extraordinary our troops cannot get on," and "It is very extraordinary that things are in this bad way:" but the fact is, there is nothing extraordinary in the whole business. The fault is with the inspirers, and not so much with the agents, of the measures. Reasonable people who calculated upon the eventual success of Spain, knew that it depended entirely upon a prompt spirit of co-operation in all the persons concerned; but the Ministers have been weak and undecisive; the Spanish Junta, which is quite a Political Inquisition, have been weak, undecisive, and most suspiciously reserved; the English Generals have been divided in consequence of their divided masters; the Spanish Generals have been divided in consequence of theirs; and BONAPARTE, instead of being opposed by a general compactness of head and heart, by politicians of one mind,

and a people of one invincible feeling, has to fight once more with the loose systems and old corruptions that have been the dissolution of other States. Justice and judgment are very different things; and if we have the one, it must be confessed that the other is entirely on his side.

☞

Government have not received any *detailed* official accounts of the events of Spain. There seems to be no doubt, however, that the French are at Burgos and Valladolid—Burgos they are said to have entered on the 9th, and Valladolid on the 13th—Heavy contributions were imposed upon both these towns—At Valladolid the first division of the army from Estremadura had arrived, and had been attacked by the French, who defeated and dispersed it—part of the division is said to have reached Benevento—The account of the advance of the French to Valladolid was, we understand, transmitted by Mr. KENNEDY, the active Commissary General, who had preceded the British Army for the purpose of procuring provisions, and had got to Salamanca, where he heard the above intelligence—He went afterwards a little way beyond Salamanca, where the account he had received at Salamanca was corroborated. He instantly sent off the intelligence to Sir JOHN MOORE, who transmitted it to Sir DAVID BAIRD. The advices from Sir DAVID BAIRD are of the 18th. We do not understand that Mr. KENNEDY sent any account of General BLAKE's defeat. That account was transmitted by Admiral de COURCY, who says shortly, that it had just reached Corunna. The advanced guard of Sir DAVID BAIRD's forces is understood to be at Astorga. Where Sir JOHN MOORE's advanced guard is, is not known. He was himself at Salamanca, and being informed of the rapid approach of the French, had, it was said, suggested to Sir DAVID BAIRD the necessity of trying to join their forces at Zamora, between Astorga and Salamanca—The utmost activity will be necessary to effect this junction—Bad roads, and heavy rains, have impeded the march of Sir J. MOORE's army, as must indeed have been foreseen at this season of the year. Why were not the troops sent by sea? they might then have been in Spain in less than a week from their leaving Portugal, and being joined there by Sir D. BAIRD would have formed one large compact solid force. Instead of which, we now see them split into separate divisions—Sir DAVID BAIRD at Astorga—Sir JOHN MOORE's advanced guard not having reached Salamanca—his other divisons heaven knows where! but days and days' march behind, contending with the elements and the roads! It is easy to see what BONAPARTE's object is—He is trying not only to isolate us from the Spaniards, but to divide Sir DAVID BAIRD from Sir JOHN MOORE, and to attack them separately.

A Letter, dated Tudela, Nov. 8, states, that the army of Castile had disbanded itself; but the same letter says, that the troops who were likely to prove effective had been incorporated with the regiments of the line, and those who were unfit for active duty had returned to their usual occupations. The chief reason assigned for the discontents which prevailed in this army, and which led to this event, is their attachment to CUESTA, and their determination to serve under no other Commander. CUESTA, it is said, has been put under an arrest, by order of the Central Junta.

Thirty guineas were given on Friday at Lloyd's, to receive 100*l.* if BONAPARTE is at Madrid on the 1st of December. This man will certainly visit almost all the capitals of Europe, and in what manner too!

The *Morning Post* asserts, that the articles inserted in that paper were sent by the friends of Sir A. WELLESLEY. Sir ARTHUR asserts, that he never *authorised* his friends to send any such communications. The Public appear to believe neither the one nor the other; for the political veracity of the *Post* is not held in *very great respect*, and after Sir ARTHUR's asserted want of memory, in regard to the letter he sent to the Bishop of OPORTO, it is not very unlikely that he may have totally forgotten the circumstance!

Advices are said to have been received from Bombay, of the arrival of the French Embassy at the Persian Court of Taheran. It is said to consist of the very numerous suite of 300 officers of infantry and cavalry, and 300 artillerymen. The utmost attention appears to have been paid in adapting the costume of the Embassy to the taste of the Asiatics; the officers and men are superbly dressed, and provided with every article of European novelty, which can strike the senses or awaken their curiosity.

Late on Tuesday evening, four young men in the employ of a chair-maker in Oxford-street, hired a boat at the Paddington Canal, and rowed to the Plough public-house at Kensal Green, where they elevated their own spirits by lowering the landlord's. About ten o'clock, when the darkness of the night prevented their finding the boat without the assistance of a light, they began to think of returning home. Melancholy however to relate, one of them, JOHN YANDALE, fancying himself the best navigator in company, placed himself in the steerage, and in a few minutes so terrified one of his companions (probably more sober than himself) by his indexterity, that he sprang from the boat upon the bank, and in a few minutes saw it upset and hurl his friends into the water, the unfortunate YANDALE never to rise again. It appears rather singular, that the man who leapt from the boat should not have given immediate alarm at the alehouse; but no, he stood motionless; nevertheless, his animated companions, when they had recovered their ducking, dived in again for YANDALE, and paddled about for three quarters of an hour, in vain. On the following morning several of his friends, together with persons employed at the Canal, adopted the regular mode of dragging till a late hour at night and again on the succeeding day, but to no effect; it is now conjectured that the clothes of the deceased must have adhered to one of the barges, who probably has been conveyed many miles up. It is said that misfortunes seldom come singly, as in this instance is actually proved: for one of these silly fellows, on his return to the shore, missed his apparel, and was absolutely compelled to walk to his home, a distance of between three and four miles, with scarcely any covering, which is the *naked* fact.

CITY.

REQUISITION FOR A COMMON HALL.

The following are copies of the Requisition sent to the Lord Mayor, and his Lordship's Answer refusing compliance ;—

TO THE RIGHT HON. THE LORD MAYOR,
November 2, 1808.

"We, the undersigned Liverymen of the City of London, request your Lordship to convene a Common Hall, on an early day, in order to take into consideration the late Convention in Portugal, by which the character, honour, and interests of the Country have been so deeply affected, and to adopt such measures as may be deemed advisable.

T. Reeve, J. Axford, R. Phillips, J. Turner, Wm. Robins, R. Slade, T. Lett, J. Griffiths, P. Fenton, M. Gould, E. Quin, J. Hurcombe, W. Rawlins, G. Phillips, T. M. Bardin, E. Butler, S. Nash, C. Sabine, J. Gibbons, G. Beauchamp, W. Griffith, S. Scott, J. Hoppe, J. Sparrow, J. Howell, S. Miller, R. Rosser, J. Gwennapp, T. Norton, R. Waithman, W. Taylor.

THE LORD MAYOR'S ANSWER.

"*Mansion-House, Monday Nov.* 21, 1808.

"The Lord Mayor presents his compliments to Mr. Quin, and begs to acquaint him, that he has considered the Requisition dated the 2d of this month, which Mr. Quin presented to him on Saturday evening last, 'To convene a Common Hall, on an early day, in order to take into consideration the late Convention in Portugal, by which the character, honour, and interests of the country have been so deeply affected, and to adopt such measures as may be deemed advisable.'

"The Lord Mayor cannot but observe, that since the date of the Requisition, a Court of Inquiry has been instituted by his Majesty's command, for investigating the causes which led to the Convention alluded to, and that the Court is now prosecuting such Inquiry.

"The Lord Mayor is of opinion, that a meeting of the Livery of London in Common Hall on the subject proposed by the Requisition, pending such public inquiry, will be highly unnecessary, unseasonable, and improper, and therefore declines to convene a Common Hall as requested."

"*Edward Quin, Esq.*"

The above is a pretty good specimen of what the Citizens are to expect from their new MAYOR. If however they would choose a man, whose *interest* it is to oblige the Ministers at all hazards, they must thank themselves for what follows.—The only thing that it would be curious to learn is, who his LORDSHIP got to write the Answer for him; for though he may be allowed the capacity of making out a tolerably fair list of butter, cheese, and bacon, yet it would be too much to suppose he could pen a political epistle. Mr. FLOWER, a writer! This is really pleasant enough.

FINE ARTS.

THIRD NUMBER OF FORSTER'S BRITISH GALLERY.

1. *The Canal of Dort.* CUYP. Engraved by FITTLER. The original is universally allowed to be one of the best specimens of the unaffected manner, and transparent colouring of CUYP; Mr. Fittler however, [illegible] freedom, has presented us with insipidity, [illegible] brilliancy, dinginess. The water is muddy, and looks as if it would make a sow sick to drink it. The coats of the men and many other parts resemble lumps of mud.

2. *Holy Family.* L. CARACCI—Engraved by RAIMBACH. This Artist has never before engraved a print with such large figures. He has been chiefly confined to miniature pieces, which he has executed in an exquisite style; especially those he has produced for Mr. Suttaby's beautiful little editions of English Classical Authors. We do not therefore wonder that in some respects he should have failed in such large objects.—There are however some beautiful bits of engraving in them. The figure of *St. John* has vigour of drawing, and its style of stroke is simple and bold. Among the defects we particularly object to the insipid cross lines on the neck of the *Virgin*. Upon the whole, however, this Print has great merit.

3. *Flemish Pastime.* BRAUWER. GEORGE NOBLE, Engraver. We request our readers will be careful not to confound the name of that meritorious artist, Mr. SAMUEL NOBLE, with that of the Engraver of this muzzy, feeble, and non-descript Print.

4. *Joseph's Garment.* GUERCINO. Engraved by N. SCHIAVONETTI. The brilliancy of a great name in art will not, like that in arms, confer a reflected lustre on relatives. Unfortunately for Mr. N. SCHIAVONETTI, there is no Royal prerogative to produce this false and dazzling effect in the Arts, and he must be content with the name and but little of the sculptural fame of his brother, notwithstanding he perceives men elevated by the accident of birth to the head of great armies and of great kingdoms, who have not capacities beyond the stable and the gaming table.—The flesh in this print is really filthy, resembling that of a coal-heaver. The drapery is as stiff as iron, and the outline throughout is the excess of hardness. The only merit of the piece is a judicious direction of the lines, with some indications of good drawing. Mr. N. SCHIAVONETTI seems therefore to be partly in possession of the rudiments of engraving, but very deficient in manual execution, which no good artist will ever entirely neglect.

Were our Engravers always to work with a few of BARTOLOZZI's best works at their elbow, we should perhaps have less of that mere mechanical and metallic clearness, which has infected the taste of the day, at the expense of richness of tone, characteristic surface of object, and vigorous drawing, so estimable in the *Clytie*, *Silence*, *Mother and Child*, &c. of that venerable artist.

We regret that we are under the disagreeable necessity of thus wounding the feelings of individuals; but the Arts must not be injured by a false delicacy and a criminal silence on bad works, much less by praising them. We are too seriously impressed by a conviction of their national importance, to mislead the public taste by such criticism. We will not "heap the shrine of ignorance and pride," with incense kindled by deception, by ignominious self-interest, or party, for there are parties in the Arts as well as in Religion and Politics. We will not, like those theatrical liars in red and black, staring at the doors of shops, apply the significant epithet *brilliant* to the advantage of wretched productions, nor like many a titled fool, glitter outside when all is base within. The dignity of

our subject shall not be degraded by falsehood. We will model from truth; and if in our critical delineations, we do not attain the rich colouring of OWEN, it shall not be remarked as false; if they have not the elegant ease of DEVIS, they shall not be condemned for carelessness of criticism; if they are deficient in the vigorous conceptions of WEST, they shall not be wanting in an endeavour at least at his correctness.

R. H.

VACCINATION.

TO THE PRINTER OF THE NOTTINGHAM JOURNAL.

SIR,

It is my wish, through the medium of your Paper, to direct the attention of the Public to a subject of the greatest importance, as involving the misery or happiness of many a fellow-creature.

The Small Pox has now, Sir, after a cessation of seven years, revisited us in its most dreadful form; many daily become the objects of its attack, and not a few fall speedy victims of its malignity. The unhappy parent sees with fearful presage his only child in a state balancing between life and death, the result of which a few short hours must determine—the unfortunate orphan seeks in vain a parent's tender care—the distressed mother, in speechless agony, watches the last groans of her expiring husband, the long-tried supporter of a numerous family, too soon to become the dependant inmates of a parish house!

Surrounded, as we all are, by honest industrious families, we cannot surely remain idle spectators, and view with indifference the entrance of the ravenous wolf, devouring the flock, mangling, and making horrible havock on every side, while an easy means is afforded us of keeping him from the fold, or at least confining him to a small and circumscribed spot. But to apply our metaphor; the Small Pox may, at all times, be expelled from the town by a regular inoculation with the Cow Pock, which possesses so many advantages over the Small Pox, as hardly to require enumeration here:—First, It is never contagious; thus you may with facility have one part of your family vaccinated without subjecting the other, or your neighbour's, to disease. Secondly, Vaccination may be conducted with the utmost safety in healthy children, at any age, even a week old; thus anticipating the march of Small Pox.—Thirdly, It is never fatal when properly conducted, and when the subject was in health at the time of inoculation.—Fourthly, A healthy child, when proper care has been taken of the inoculated part, never experiences any future disease, that can with justice be attributed to vaccination.—Fifthly, It does not in the least interrupt daily labour, nor does a child require any particular attention, except the necessary care not to bruise the Pock.—Sixthly, The Cow Pox is known to possess the power of greatly mitigating the Small Pox, where the constitution is impregnated with both diseases at the same time; hence it is of much importance to have children vaccinated that are exposed to Small Pox, although in the same house; and by this means the Small Pox has in many instances been altogether superseded by the Cow Pox.

This statement is supported by a register of upwards of two thousand cases of vaccination, which clearly prove the superiority of Cow Pox over that loathsome and pestilential disease, the Small Pox—appearing to-day unusually mild—to-morrow, dreadfully malignant. Should any one be disposed to doubt the malignancy of this disease, let him visit Robinson's Building, Butcher's Close, and hear the description the poor there give of it: let him enquire for the family of Leavers, which to-day consists of a father dying of the putrid Small Pox, three children struggling with the disease, and the mother in daily expectation of her confinement—all these objects are at night extended upon the same bed, and in the same room, which is their only abode during the day, and probably soon after this meets the public eye, the survivors of his family may be obliged to seek refuge in a parish workhouse. Many more distressing instances, perhaps not equally wretched, may be found in Acton's Yard, Navigation-Row, Pear-Street, Glass House-Lane, Narrow Marsh, St. Peter's Churchyard, &c, sufficient seed, any one must own, to extend the disease through the whole of this populous town.

It is for the charitable to prevent the diffusion of this epidemic: the means are yet in their power—and it must be obvious that extensive VACCINATION only, can stem a torrent, which, in its progress would overwhelm many industrious families, and reduce respectable individuals to claim that relief which would soon produce a great addition to the parish rates.

The present fatality of Small Pox will appear from the following statement: Twenty-nine cases of confluent Small Pox have been seen in the town since the publication of the Report of the Vaccine Institution in September last, of which number five are already dead—two only recovering—and twenty-two at present remain subjects of the disease, but by no means free from danger—besides *three* inoculated cases in Barker-Gate.

It then must appear, that the warm support of Vaccination is alone wanting to successfully oppose the enemy, now at our doors—a foe which spares neither rich nor poor, but wars on all without distinction, mowing down victim after victim with an increasing malignity, which the situation even of the affluent can scarcely moderate, and to which the poor are exposed with all its force—who have no resource but a reliance on the generosity of the opulent and charitable; the widow's mite then proves as acceptable as the rich man's bounty, and will to its extent produce equal good, in support of an Institution, the object of which is to give that aid to the poor they are unable to purchase—an Institution which has existed three years on the bounty of the public, but is now, from the want of funds, obliged again to solicit public contributions, and must, without immediate support, fall into premature decay: then may the Small Pox again become the scourge to the inhabitants of this town. Thus may it be said in the words of Cato,

"My bane and antidote are both before me!"

Yours, &c. JAMES CLARKE.

Nottingham, Nov. 14, 1808.

N. B. Since writing the above, the unfortunate family of Leavers has lost its prime support—the father, Robert Leavers, has become a loathsome and putrid corpse!!!

PUBLIC NUISANCES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR—Observing some remarks in your last Sunday's Paper respecting the Society for the Suppression of Vice, I am induced to submit a few observations to your Readers, relative to the supineness of the Society, in a quarter where something more important is involved, than the sabbatical seizure of a mutton chop!

The Society's indefatigable zeal in matters of *little import*, to the almost total neglect of *real* and *alarming evils*, seems to be acknowledged even by their most strenuous advocates; and if their existence is at all necessary, there can be no question as to the propriety of their exertions being directed towards important objects. How far this has been attempted by them, is the purport of the present inquiry.

The particular facts to which I would refer you, Sir, are centered in that pool of iniquity, St. George's-fields. It is here that the exertions of the Society might be usefully directed. It might indeed be asked, where are the Magistrates? But my present object leads me to inquire, where is the Society for Suppressing Vice? Here is a

neighbourhood abounding in prostituted children from ten to sixteen years of age, and pickpockets of nearly the same age, almost as numerous as in London or Westminster, with a continued succession of children bred up in the same course of life! It is true, we have that blasphemous Conventicle called "the House of God;" but there is another building, which with more propriety may be termed "the House of the Devil!" better known by the title of *the Circus*. This is the vile receptacle of every thing impious—a disgrace to the Magistrates, to the Legislature, to humanity, and most undoubtedly to the pious Society for Suppressing Vice; for, if vice does not exist here, I should doubt its existence in the *infernal regions!* The Grecian games, where the deluded votaries danced in a state of nudity, could not far exceed, in depravity, the English games at the Royal Circus. How the eagle-eyes of the Society could have overlooked this scene of impiety, to a superficial observer would appear unnaccountable. For, when we consider the eager inquiry they instituted relative to the Bacchanalian figures in Piccadilly, and the numerous prosecutions against the fraternity of butchers, for vending *scrags of mutton* on a Sunday, one would be led to imagine, that the dreadful tale I have just described, would have excited these immaculate Gentlemen to apply for nothing short of a legislative interference to suppress the growing evil. But so far from attending their duty in this wretched neighbourhood, they have been forestalled by the butchers, who have become the voluntary agents of the Society, by informing against their brethren for selling meat on the Sabbath!

"————————let the arraign'd
Stand up unconscious, and refute the charge."

But to be serious, Sir, it is not from the futile exertions of the Society that the cause of morality is likely to be materially benefitted. Their pompous addresses but ill accord with the objects of their pursuit, or the success of their exertions. It is chiefly from the people themselves that we are to look for the accomplishment of a moral reform; and I have not the least doubt, that, were the most active inhabitants of the Borough of Southwark, and adjacent parishes, to assemble for the purpose of considering on the best means of remedying these abuses, it would rouse the Magistrates from their present lethargy, and be the means of dispersing those numerous hordes of prostitutes and thieves, who are concentrated into a small space, to the annoyance of the neighbourhood, and the corruption of its youth. Application might also be made to the Lord Chamberlain to exercise his authority over the managers of the Circus, for not enforcing that portion of general decorum, which is in a great degree in their power, and the neglect of which reflects an indelible disgrace on them.

To conclude, Sir,

"Let discipline employ her wholesome arts;
Let Magistrates alert, perform their parts;
Not skulk, and put on a prudential mask,
As if their duty were a desperate task."

And, aided by the example of the rich (the consummation of which is "devoutely to be wished"), and the improvements likely to result from the general education of the poor, England may still rank high in Europe as a nation exemplary for morality and religion.

Yours, respectfully,

Nov. 10, 1808. PHILO-RELIGIO.

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

BOARD OF INQUIRY.

FOURTH DAY.—NOV. 21.

The Court was occupied for some time in matters of little public interest: after which several questions were put to Sir A. WELLESLEY by the Court, from the answers to which it appeared that Sir A. Wellesley had a discretionary power to employ the army under his command in Spain or wherever else he deemed it advisable. On landing in Portugal, the Bishop of Oporto promised supplies, but a contract was also entered into in case of a deficiency. The force was deficient in artillery-horses and cavalry; the French having from 12 to 1400, while the British and Portuguese amounted only to 470. Sir Arthur however considered the army sufficiently powerful to drive the French from Portugal.

Capt. MALCOLM was examined as to the difficulty of landing troops and stores on the Portuguese coast, which he described as attended with considerable difficulty and danger.

Sir HEW DALRYMPLE then read a Narrative of the Operations of the Army. It began by stating that Lord Castlereagh informed him by letter, on the 15th July, that his Majesty being much pleased with his conduct at Gibraltar, had appointed him to the command of the armies in Spain and Portugal. His instructions were, *to expel the French from Portugal, but to take particular care to cut off their retreat from Spain!* On the 10th of August he had an interview with Admiral Cotton, who thought very lightly of the French force in Portugal; but in this opinion he did not coincide. He resolved to land at Mondego Bay, but did not wish at all to interfere with the plans of Sir Arthur Wellesley, in that separate command for which he appeared to be particularly selected. He saw no reason for assuming the responsibility of measures which appeared to have been *confided peculiarly to Sir Arthur Wellesley*. Sir Arthur had been *recommended by Lord Castlereagh to his most particular confidence; and great confidence was expressed, in the dispatch, to have been given by Government to his well known talents, and a sort of wish that every attention which the rules of the service would allow should be paid to his advice and opinion.* On the 21st of August, he approached the land. He ordered Capt. Osburn to go and tell Sir Arthur Wellesley, that he wished for information of his proceedings, but that he did not wish to interfere with his command. Having learnt that the army was then under the command of Sir H. Burrard, he landed upon the 22d of August, *without the slightest information* of the state of the Porguese insurgents, their numbers, discipline, or efficiency; and had shortly after his landing an interview with Sir A. Wellesley; but as there were at that time a great number of wounded Officers on the beach, he did not then enter fully into the operations which had taken place. The first order, however, which he gave, was for the army to move forward. Upon his arrival, he found it exactly in the same position which it had occupied the day before, and saw the necessity of its moving forward. He could not possibly take upon himself to explain what were the circumstances which induced other Officers to believe, that if on the 21st of August (the day before his arrival), the army had advanced, the result of the action would have been more important. Those who were in the battle, and had formed that opinion, could alone explain the reasons of it. Although it was certain, that at the battle of Vimiera the French lost more, both in killed and wounded, than our army, yet the great loss which we sustained in our very small body of cavalry, balanced, in a great measure, that advantage. A very short time after his landing, the French appeared to be moving forward; and it was generally conceived in the army, that another battle was going to be fought on the same ground that they had fought the preceding day. None of the Officers saw any obstacle to forcing the French to cross the Tagus; but he himself had not had time at that moment to learn the strength of the Portuguese, the number of the French, or the state of the British ordnance, or of the Commissariat. It appeared, however, that what was at first taken for a body of the enemy advancing, was only the cavalry which attended Gen. Kellermann, coming with a flag of truce to solicit an

Armistice. There were very few objections made to the conditions of the armistice. As to the article respecting baggage and private property, of which advantage had been taken to inflame the public mind in Portugal, Gen. Kellermann expressly stated, at the time of agreeing to it, that the words were to be taken in their strict grammatical sense, and were by no means intended to include other objects, such as merchandize and public property. During the continuance of the truce, Sir J. Moore's force landed. Gen. Kellermann for a long time insisted, that the Russian fleet, which had conducted itself strictly neutral since its arrival in the Tagus, should be free from attack for 24 hours after it had sailed. The whole number of Russians who formed the crews were about 6000 men. As to the article by which the French were to retain their baggage and private property, although such a clamour had been made about it in Portugal, and re-echoed from every part of this country, yet it was nothing different from the customary articles on all similar occasions. He should instance the Capitulations of Malta, Alexandria, and Egypt; in all of which he understood that there was full as much protection given for persons and property, and the conquered were allowed their baggage and private property. If the armistice had not taken place, the army must have either waited for Gen. Moore's reinforcement, or else they must have marched forward, in number not exceeding 16,000 men, to attack the enemy's strong positions. In their march, they would have been much *annoyed* by the enemy's cavalry and infantry of reserve. It certainly was his opinion, that whenever the British army was embarked in hazardous enterprizes, they should depend, in a great degree, on the rapidity of movements. It was, however, hard to move with rapidity, when, as it was stated by Sir A. Wellesley, the artillery horses were by no means in proper condition—when a great proportion of them were horses furnished by the Irish Commissariat, from the cast horses of the cavalry, many of them *blind and lame*. In such circumstances, if he had determined to attack the positions of the enemy, he must have marched along the sea coast, to have taken the chance of any precarious assistance that might be got in the way of reinforcement. Almost immediately after the battle, Gen. Junot returned to Lisbon, to prevent any alarm taking place in that city. The Police immediately published a bombastic account of the successes of the French. As soon as the armistice was concluded, the army marched forward and took the positions specified in it. General Friere then waited on him, and in talking of the terms of it, expressed some dissatisfaction. The real cause of his dissatisfaction appeared to him to be, that there was an apparent neglect of the authority of the Junta of Oporto. Major Pinto, a confidential Officer, sent by him afterwards, expressed the same idea. His reply was, that an armistice was merely a military measure, in which no Government was alluded to; but that in point of fact, it could not be said that at that moment any established Government did exist in Portugal; he thought it would be better to establish the old Regency. Major Pinto appeared at first to acquiesce in that idea, and afterwards seemed inclined to consider the Junta of Oporto as the legitimate Government of the country. This conference produced no satisfactory result. On the night of the 24th of August, Lieut.-Colonel Murray returned from a conference with Admiral Sir Charles Cotton, and brought his objections to that article of the armistice which related to the Russian fleet. Colonel Murray was then dispatched to Lisbon, and a letter was received that the French General consented that the article so objected to should be expunged from the armistice, and wished the Convention to be formed on the basis of the remaining articles. They, however, put a different and less favourable construction upon some of them from what they were intended to convey. Upon this, Sir Arthur Wellesley had the goodness to frame and draw up a letter which was approved of and signed by him, and sent to Col. Murray, directing him to declare that the armistice was at an end on the 29th of August at noon. On the 28th, Capt. Dalrymple returned from Lisbon with the treaty, which contained some articles that appeared to him inadmissible. He then convened a Council, consisting *of all the Lieutenant Generals*, with the exception of Lord Paget, who happened to be placed at too great a distance to wait for his arrival. After the conference, it was resolved that the Armistice expired at twelve o'clock that day, and he therefore immediately ordered the army to advance and occupy the position of Torres Vedras, which they accordingly did; but as it might appear extraordinary to take such a step while a negociation was actually pending, he wrote a letter to the French General, explaining the circumstance. With this letter his Aide-de-Camp, Captain Fanshaw, and the Aide-de-Camp of Sir Arthur Wellesley, Lord Fitzroy Somerset, were sent into Lisbon. This circumstance was communicated the same day to Don Souza de Pinto, the Portuguese Minister. On the 24th he heard of the arrival of Sir John Moore's troops at Mondego, and had a long conference with Sir Arthur Wellesley, and other Officers, on the propriety of their disembarking. It was finally arranged that they should land gradually.

As to the Convention which was concluded at Cintra, although it was approved by the other Lieutenant-Generals, yet he felt that this approbation was not altogether sufficient for his justification; but that, as having the chief command, he had the principal responsibiity of the measure. He could not say what were the reasons which induced the other Lieutenant-Generals to approve of it; but he was happy to have an authentic document which stated the reasons which induced *Sir Arthur Wellesley to approve of it*, and which were conveyed in a letter from that General to Lord Castlereagh. Independent, however, of the reasons which made the other Generals approve of it, he felt it necessary to state why he himself approved of it. The Convention was signed on the 30th and such was the state of the weather that the whole British fleet was driven out to sea on the 31st, by a strong wind from the south-west, and there was no calculating how long this unfavourable weather *might* last. In the mean time, the provisioning of the British army was most uncertain; for, as Sir A. Wellesley had stated, no supply of corn could be got from Portugal, and all their dependence was on the British victualling ships. In the next place, the attack on the forts of the Tagus was *not so easy* as had been represented. Fort St. Julien was in the best state of defence; and if it had been resolved to attack the French in their strong positions, a considerable time must have elapsed in making the necessary preparations, and a considerable time longer in reducing the French to such an extremity as to oblige them to surrender as prisoners. It never could be supposed that, until reduced to the last extremity, they would have submitted to the humiliation of receiving the most unfavourable terms which are ever given in war. If he had understood that the object of the expedition was merely limitted to Portugal, he would allow that the Convention was improper; for if the army had no ulterior object, there could be no question that by the delay of several months they would be able to reduce the French force in Portugal to any terms; but he always conceived that a co-operation with Spain was not only the ultimate but the principal object of the expedition. If he was right in this opinion, it was evident there ought to be no delay in Portugal, for if the British force had been detained there a month or two longer, the heavy rains would have commenced, which would have made it impossible to have reached Spain before the middle of spring. There were some *trifling points* in the treaty which he disapproved of, but agreeing with all the General Officers in the principle of it, he did not wish to reject it on such

consideration. The British flag had been hoisted on some of the Portuguese forts, but this originated entirely in a mistake, which was very soon rectified. A few days after the armistice, he received a dispatch from Lord Castlereagh, conveying instructions for the re-establishment of the old Regency, and declaring that Government, well aware of the great responsibility which attached to him on taking the command of the army, were determined to protect him in this responsibility which had been cast upon him, and desiring him by no means to *flinch*, on account of his responsibility, from any thing which he conceived to be his duty to his King and his country, and for the interests of the common cause. In consequence of accounts received, which were much exaggerated, of the system of plunder of the French in Lisbon after the Convention, a Commission was established for investigating that business. He never conceived the French were to take the property of other men, under the designation of their "private property." At the same time he thought it would be in the highest degree unreasonable for the Portuguese to expect that the British army could cause to be restored to them all that plunder which had been consumed in the maintenance of the French army eight months before the British troops landed in that country. As to the dissatisfaction of some part of the Portuguese nation, it might easily be conceived that the views of the people of Oporto, which was a city in some degree a rival to Lisbon, and which was not occupied by French troops, might be very different from the views of the inhabitants of the Metropolis, which was actually under French dominion. He should not say that he was at all moved by the menance of Gen. Kellermann, that Lisbon should be destroyed if the Armistice were not agreed to; but he would confess that the great sufferings which the inhabitants of that populous city would be exposed to, if it were to be reduced either by famine or force, did weigh considerably on his determination. The Judge of Lisbon, who was at first so alarmed at the articles of the Convention, soon began to see the matter in its true light, and so did the inhabitants of that city, when they saw that those who had extorted plunder were obliged to disgorge it.—In fact, the Commissioners who were appointed rather anticipated than reported any violation of the articles on the part of the French. When Gen. Kellermann came to his head-quarters, and expressed regret, that by higher authority than his, some stores had been removed; he answered him directly, that from that moment, if any person in the French army, from the General in Chief to the private soldier, should commit any plunder, he should be personally responsible; that that man should immediately forfeit the benefit of the Convention, and be considered a prisoner of war. Soon after his arrival in Portugal, he received a letter from Gen. Castanos, congratulating him on his appointment, and containing the following expressions:—"If Portugal is once evacuated by the French, we can give one another the hand, and act for the future in unity and concord in the common cause." If there appeared any delay in the movement of the British troops after the Convention, he could easily explain it for the time that he retained the command. He immediately sent to Castanos, who he believed to be at Madrid, to Gen. Morla, and also to different Juntas, to collect what was the real disposition of the people of Spain with respect to a British army advancing through their country. It was not a mere cold acquiescence that would have been sufficient, unless the proposal was heartily acceded to, and if there was not a complete co-operation, it would be of no avail. It might, perhaps, be easier for the Spaniards to starve a hostile force of 60,000 men than to supply a friendly army of 30,000 passing through their country. These inquiries necessarily occupied some time. He could, however, state, that during the month of September, 24,000 Frenchmen had evacuated Portugal, and more than 10,000 British troops had advanced towards the frontiers of Spain. It was his hope that Portugal would not require the presence of British troops, and that our whole army might move to what he conceived its destination, the co-operation with the Spanish army.

Sir H. DALRYMPLE having concluded his narrative, delivered in the manuscript to the Court.

The JUDGE-ADVOCATE then read one of the documents alluded to in the narrative of Sir H. Dalrymple. It was a letter from Lord W. Bentinck to the General, approving generally the proceedings he had adopted in respect to the Convention of Cintra, so highly conducive to the object of the Expedition, and the good of the common cause, but expressing disapprobation of some of the terms, which however he did not particularise.—Adjourned.

FIFTH DAY.—NOV. 22.

The proceedings commenced with the JUDGE ADVOCATE's reading the narrative delivered into the Board yesterday by Sir H. Dalrymple.

Some documents were also read from the Commissariat Department; and another from the Department of the Adjutant-General, stating the number of French who embarked after the evacuation, to be 24,735 men, 213 women, and 116 children.

Sir A. WELLESLEY then rose, to offer to the Board some written observations on the narrative given in by Sir H. Dalrymple. They were to this effect:—That notwithstanding Sir H. Dalrymple considered the measures he had adopted previous to his arrival, to be such as would not justify him in assuming the responsibility for any result which might follow, he felt confident that from the means he possessed, with 13,000 British troops, and the aid he was taught to expect of 6000 Portuguese troops, he had strength enough to accomplish the purposes he had in contemplation against the army of the French, which he understood did not exceed 20,500 men; and that the line of march he proposed to pursue in furtherance of his objects, was in his opinion every way preferable to that chosen by Sir Hew. With respect to the Armistice, he positively denied that he was the negociator; and although he certainly had signed it, yet he disclaimed all responsibility for its honour. He was present a great part of the time while it was in discussion; but the objections he made, and most of the suggestions he offered, were over-ruled by Gen. Dalrymple; for though he *perfectly agreed on the general objects of the Expedition*, namely, *the evacuation of Portugal by the French troops*, and the setting a large British force at liberty to co-operate with the Spaniards; and though he thought it *perfectly expedient that the French should be allowed to evacuate the place with all their baggage and arms in their hands*, under all the advantages which they possessed, with the military possession of the country and its resources, while the British found it impossible to procure any supply of provisions, but must depend solely on a precarious one, from their own transports,—yet there were many of the *minor terms* to which he could not agree. He thought it, for instance, extremely desirable that the Russian ships should not by any means be included in a treaty with the French; but that any thing done with respect to them, should be the subject of a distinct treaty, and with themselves, as they had acted a neutral part while in the Tagus. He also distinctly understood that under the term of "all manner of property," used in the treaty, mere military baggage and private property were implied; but with respect to the Armistice itself, with all its conditions, Kellermann distinctly asked, during the conference, who was the ostensible negociator with whom he was treating? and Sir H. Dalrymple answered, with himself. Had either he (Sir Arthur) or Gen. Burrard been the negociator, either would have been called on to sign first. Gen. Kellermann had dictated to the Officer who accompanied him as Secretary, the terms for a fair copy. Sir Hew Dalrymple himself took the pen in his hand, and was proceeding to sign the instrument *without reading it*; but

Gen. Kellermann objected, that it was not regular for a Commander in Chief to sign a treaty concluded with a General of Division. Upon which he (Sir Arthur) was called by Sir Hew out of another room to which he had retired; was told the objection of Gen. Kellermann, and the pen was handed to him by Sir Hew, to sign the treaty. He then read the instrument throughout; and after making the observation, that it was a most extraordinary paper, and drawn up in a most extraordinary way, he signed it, *as he would have signed any other paper, at the desire of his superior Officer*, but without feeling himself at all responsible for its contents. He was willing, he said, to suffer any punishment or disgrace that his own conduct might be deemed to incur; but it would be a new and extraordinary principle, to punish or disgrace an Officer for a transaction in which he had no authority nor responsibility, but where both belonged to his superior in command. As to the main object of the treaty, the evacuation of Portugal, it was justified in the result; for while our allies in Portugal were liberated from the oppressive burthen of an enemy's army in their country, and a large British force enabled to march for a junction and co-operation with the Spanish army, not a man of the French troops who had evacuated Portugal, and been sent to France, had yet reached the Spanish frontier. But as to the armistice, such as it was, it remained a dead letter, and was never acted upon, except so far as it produced a cessation of hostilities. As to the terms concluded with regard to the Russians, he thought them much more preferable for the object of the public service, than to have insisted on their unconditional surrender; for he judged, that as soon as the Portuguese colours should be hoisted at Lisbon, the Government there would have claimed for the Russians the neutrality of the Tagus, which would have obliged Sir C. Cotton to send home for instructions. This would have led to a protracted discussion between the two Governments, and have impeded the object of the expedition. But there was one thing in the treaty which he most decidedly condemned, namely, that no conditions whatever were stipulated for the 5000 Spanish prisoners in hulks on the Tagus, who were left entirely at the mercy and disposal of the French, when there might have been an exchange negociated for them, for as many French prisoners detained in their own country, and to which the Government of Gallicia would have readily acceded. As to the Convention at Cintra, he never saw it until his arrival in England.

Sir H. DALRYMPLE observed, that with respect to the negociation of the armistice, certainly Sir A. Wellesley discussed the point for a considerable time in the French language at the table with General Kellermann, and that in the mean time a Frenchman who had accompanied General Kellermann, and whom he (Sir Hew) had seen in London some three years before, but did not immediately recollect his face or figure, took him aside to the window, claimed acquaintance with him, and in very bad English, asked him if he understood French? To which he answered, Yes, as much as he had occasion for. Then this cunning Frenchman, under pretence of aiding him in understanding the words of Gen. Kellermann, who was in conversation with Sir A. Wellesley, and to impress him with the idea that the Russians were friendly to the English, said that it would be imprudent to insist on any terms offensive to them? and that if the terms proposed by the French respecting them were rejected, they would be armed against the English. He repeated frequently, like a starling, after Kellermann, the words, *dans vingt-quatre heures nous aurons dix milles Russes* (in four and twenty hours there will be 10,000 Russians). With respect to the intimation to Sir A. Wellesley of his intention not to supersede him in his command, he had forwarded it to him by an Aide-de-Camp, from on board his vessel, soon after his arrival on the coast, but he understood that Officer had not the good fortune to meet with Sir Arthur, to communicate the measure.

Sir A. WELLESLEY then made some observations on the articles upon which he differed in opinion from the Commander in Chief. As to the article which related to the French being allowed their baggage, &c. it was perfectly understood at the time, that property belonging to churches, to libraries, and museums, or galleries of picture, did not come within the meaning or the letter of the articles: as to property absolutely purchased, the Military Commanders could not interfere.

Sir H. DALRYMPLE stated that he was convinced that a great part of the hostility, which appeared against him in Portugal, arose from this circumstance:—The Bishop of Oporto, with his Junta, wished to be considered as the actual Government of Portugal, and the Representatives of the Prince Regent. This was a claim which he conceived it his duty to resist, and he resisted it very early. He therefore had no correspondence with the Bishop of Oporto after the Convention, *but he knew Sir A. Wellesley had*, because he himself received the answer to a letter which he had sent to the Bishop, from the accidental circumstance of the letter being directed to "the General in Chief of the British Forces." This letter he had now among his papers.

Sir A. WELLESLEY said, that he always coincided in opinion with Sir H. Dalrymple about the claim of the Bishop and Junta of Oporto. He really *could not recollect whether he had ever written the letter imputed to him or not!* He was sure he had no copy of such a letter, and he could not say whether he had written to the Bishop or not! He saw the letter which was imputed to him, inserted in the newspapers; but still he could not say whether he had written it! *If he had written the letter*, and the terms of it were such as the newspapers stated, he thought it might well be justified; for *if he had said there was nothing extraordinary in the terms of the Convention*, it was what might very fairly be said as applying only to the Portuguese. As far as respected the Portuguese, he would still say, that there was nothing extraordinary in the terms of the armistice, except that article which related to the neutrality of the port of Lisbon!!!

Capt. BLIGH was then examined, who confirmed the testimony given on a former day by Capt. Malcolm, as to the great difficulty of landing provisions, stores, or artillery, on the coast of Portugal, during the months of August and September, on account of the swell and surf which is always upon the beach during these months.

Gen. FERGUSON was then introduced as a witness, but the President shewing him the written questions, put it to his option whether he would answer them, or take time to consider them, and send in written answers. Gen. Ferguson preferred taking some time to consider his answers.

The Board adjourned till Thursday.

The Princess of Wales was in Court, attended by two ladies. Her Royal Highness shook hands with Sir A. Wellesley.

SIXTH DAY.—NOV. 24.

Col. TORRENS was called, and examined by Sir Arthur Wellesley.

Q. Does Col. Torrens recollect my having some conversation with him respecting my having signed a treaty of armistice?—A. Yes. On the morning of the 23d, at daylight, Sir Arthur Wellesley mentioned to me the occurrences which had taken place on the preceeding evening, and told me that he had signed a treaty of armistice by desire of Sir Hew Dalrymple, although he totally disapproved of many of the points in it, and of the tone of language in which it was drawn up.

Q. Did I specify to you the parts to which I objected?—A. Yes. Principally that part relative to the neutrality of the Russian fleet, and of granting an armistice for 48 hours.

Q. Does Col. Torrens recollect my mentioning to him, on the 22d, that I felt I did not possess the confidence of the Commander in Chief?—A. I do recollect that Sir A. Wellesley did express regret that he apparently had not the confidence of the Commander in Chief, or some words to that effect.

Q. Does Col. Torrens recollect the answer of Sir Hew Dalrymple to the communication made by me on the morning of the 22d, of the necessity of marching the army?—A. Sir Hew Dalrymple replied, "that he had but just arrived, and was consequently unable to form any judgment of the matter;" upon which an Officer of the Staff spoke aside to Sir Hew, and then followed Sir A. Wellesley to communicate the desire of the Commander of the Forces, that he should form regulations for the march of the army, and give what orders he thought necessary.

Q. Does Col. Torrens recollect that I told him Colonel Murray had spoken to the Commander in Chief, upon the necessity of marching, in consequence of my having urged to him (Col. Murray) that necessity, after the Commander in Chief of the Forces had declined attending to my recommendation?—A. I certainly did understand from Sir Arthur Wellesley that Col. Murray urged the necessity of an advance of the army to the Commander of the Forces, in consequence of a conferrence with him (Sir Arthur) on the subject. But I cannot call to my recollection whether or not Sir A. Wellesley told me that he had this conference with Col. Murray after he had urged the matter himself to the Commander of the Forces.

Capt. MALCOLM, of the Donegall, examined by Sir Arthur Wellesley.

Q. Does Capt. Malcolm recollect what passed when the Commander in Chief, Sir Hew Dalrymple, came to him on the morning of the 24th, accompanied by me?—A. I do.

Q. Does he recollect my having recommended to the Commander in Chief to announce to Gen. Junot the termination of the suspension of hostilities in 48 hours, without reference to that part of the detail containing the sentiments of the British Admiral respecting the article for the capitulation of the Russian ships; and that Gen. Junot might propose a renewal of the negociation if he thought proper?—A. I recollect a conversation then between Sir Hew Dalrymple and Sir A. Wellesley, in which it was stated, that the Admiral would not agree to that part of the armistice regarding the Russian fleet, and Sir Arthur said, he thought as much: and in answer to a request of Sir Hew for his advice, said he thought it adviseable to inform Junot in general terms, that the Admiral disapproved of the armistice, but saw no necessity of pointing out the particular article to which he objected; and added, that Gen. Junot should be told the suspension of arms would terminate within the 48 hours agreed on, leaving that General at liberty, if he thought proper, to propose a renewal of the suspension.

Next followed a series of interrogatories from the Court to Sir H. DALRYMPLE. The questions put related to the proceedings of the army on his arrival; the motives which directed his conduct; the nature of the country in which he had to act, in a military view; the state of the British forces, their artillery and Commissariat, provisions, &c. and the comparative situation of the enemy. He said, that immediately after his landing on the 21st, he dispatched his letters for England, and shortly afterwards met Sir Harry Burrard in the same House in which he took up his quarters, but he did not recollect that Sir Harry had shewn him any reports, or communicated any particular details respecting the operations of the army. He did not know the situation of the country, nor had he accurate details of the enemy's force, but understood from Sir H. Burrard, or some other officer, that it was estimated at 14,000 men. He had no accurate detail respecting the state of the forts of the Tagus, nor of the means taken by the French to preserve tranquillity in the capital. There were but eight days provisions on shore for the British troops, and for any further supply they must depend on their ships; but Lisbon, he understood, was well supplied with provisions, and the same contractors had undertaken to furnish the Russian ships. He could not exactly state who the officers were from whom he received his account at the time, nor the precise detail given; but when, on the next morning, he proceeded to give orders for the march of the army, he found both Sir A. Wellesley and Gen. Murray had changed their opinions. Gen. Kellermann arrived in the afternoon of the 22d at the British camp, as he understood, with full powers to treat; and he himself called for the assistance of Sir Arthur Wellesley and Sir Harry Burrard, in discussing the terms. Sir Harry Burrard did not appear to take an active part in the discussion? Sir Arther Wellesley did, and seemed to acquiesce. He saw, himself, the objects of the expedition could not then be accomplished without a Convention, and he had chiefly in view the attainment of these objects:—namely, the evacuation of Portugal, and co-operation with the Spanish armies. Col. Murray was dispatched to Junot, at Lisbon, on the 24th of August: the distance from head-quarters was 30 miles, and occupied eight hours in travelling. Colonel Murray, during his mission to the French Commander in Chief, corresponded regularly and pointedly. The treaty, when concluded, was ratified by himself and Sir Hew: he understood, with the approbation of all the Lieutenant-Generals. Several of the articles originally inserted, were either modified or expunged, particularly the 6th, 12th, 13th, and 17th. In calling for the opinions of the Lieutenant-Generals under his command, he did not consider those conferences as regular Councils of War; but he resorted to them for advice to guide his own conduct, for the better promoting the success of his Majesty's arms. It was not his wish or intention to raise any barrier between himself and the responsibility attached to his command. He had not followed servilely any man's opinion, but acted in the manner that to the best of his own judgment appeared right, under all the circumstances. Sir Hew then gave his opinion in detail of the military force of the country, and the strong posts of which the French were in possession: of the strength of the old fortifications of Lisbon he thought very lightly, and the new works added by the French seemed chiefly intended to act, if necessary, against the town itself, which, from their situation, they effectually commanded. The French force which finally evacuated was 24,735 men; and at the time of his departure from Lisbon, he left the British troops in a situation ready to commence their march by small detachments to Spain.

Sir Hew next said he had not been aware, nor had he any information of what force the French left at Lisbon, and in the forts, when they advanced; but he conceived, that when they fell back upon the strong positions near Lisbon, their force would be very respectable, and that the river Tagus allowed them facilities of concentrating a strong force in any point where they might be attacked. He nevertheless had no doubt but that they could have been finally driven across the Tagus, although they could not be prevented from crossing that river. Gen. Kellermann expressly threatened, that if the armistice should not be agreed to, and the force should be obliged to cross the Tagus, they would destroy the city of Lisbon. This measure had not of itself great weight on his mind; but he could not avoid considering that any destruction which might be committed in Lisbon, would so far be efficient as a military measure, inasmuch as it would in a great degree save the rear-guard of their army from attack, while they were crossing the Tagus. If they had crossed the Tagus, it would have taken the British army some time to have crossed that river: he had no doubt, however, but that the French would have been ultimately reduced, although it might have been an affair that would

have taken up a considerable deal of time, and our allies might have sustained considerable loss and injury. Being asked, what length of time it would have taken after the Convention to send the British troops to the North of Spain? he replied, that it was very uncertain; but that without any loss of time arrangements had been made for their passage through Portugal; and if the destination had been suddenly changed, and the British troops had been sent to the North of Spain in transports, a much greater delay must have taken place. He estimated the force that the British army could move forward, if they had not agreed to the armistice, was only 16,000 men.

Gen. FERGUSON was then examined. He landed with Sir A. Wellesley, and had been present at the battle of Vimiera. From the time of the landing to the battle, the supply of provisions had been regular; and upon the 21st, there was a supply of three days biscuit in camp. As to the general nature of the country occupied by the British at the time of the battle, it was certainly unfavourable. He did not know the strength of the forts upon the Tagus, and of the defences of Lisbon; but he believed the castle of Lisbon to be of no great strength, and not capable of much resistance. The enemy were certainly possessed of considerable resources in their positions in the neighbourhood of Lisbon, and on the Tagus; and if they resolved to cross over to the south side of the Tagus, there was no possibility of preventing them. He was then asked—Suppose the armistice had been rejected upon the 22d, and the French attacked in their positions, whether it was not his opinion, that from the known character of the French General, and the mode in which French armies were accustomed to conduct themselves, the city of Lisbon would not have been in great danger of destruction? Gen. Ferguson replied, that he had *no reason to suppose that a French army and a French Commander would have acted at all differently from what any other army or any other commander would have done in similar circumstances.* In answer to another question, he said he could have no doubt, but that if a British army had been circumstanced in the same way that the French army was, the city of Lisbon must have suffered considerably before they would have given it up, or surrendered themselves prisoners of war. He was then asked, Did not the Convention immediately deliver Portugal from the French armies, open the harbour of Lisbon to our fleets, preserve the city of Lisbon and Portugal from great evils, release a considerable number of Spanish prisoners, and remove from the Spaniards the apprehension of Junot's entering Spain? He replied that it did liberate Portugal from the French, but not immediately, as the French troops remained there for a considerable time after the Convention. It certainly did ultimately relieve Portugal from French troops; it prevented the evils which otherwise must have inevitably fallen upon the city of Lisbon, but he could not say that he believed that, after the surrender of Gen. Dupont, the Spaniards could have any serious apprehensions from Junot's army. As to the Convention itself, he found it impossible for him to give an opinion whether the objects accomplished by it could, or could not, have been obtained more speedily in another way. The enemy were certainly much disheartened at the result of the battle of Vimiera. Being asked as to the artillery landed at Mondego, he stated, that there was none larger than nine-pounders in the army, and certainly it was not usual to attack forts with such light guns. He repeated, that it was impossible to prevent the French from crossing the Tagus; but as to their retreating to Almeida, he did not think that very practicable; but from the moment that Sir J. Moore's division arrived at Marcera, it was quite impossible.

Sir H. DALRYMPLE was then asked on what day the Convention was transmitted, and whether he transmitted it in French or in English? He answered, that he transmitted it on the 3d September, and that it was in French.

Gen. SPENCER gave in a military report of the strength of the forts, which command the Tagus. It appeared, that Fort St. Julien was of very considerable strength, and could receive a garrison of 12,000 men. There were several tanks in it, which gave it an abundant supply of water.—Adjourned to Saturday.

SEVENTH DAY—NOV. 26.

The sittings of the Board of Inquiry this day produced no material additions to the evidence of the preceding days.

Brigadier-Gen. ACKLAND read his answers to the questions proposed, which were the same as those sent to Brigadier-Gen. Ferguson. He did not think that the French would have surrendered prisoners of war on the 22d; nor if driven back upon Lisbon, would they without making further effort. To a question as to whether the Convention did not liberate Portugal from the French, put a stop to the ravages of war upon the Tagus, &c. and whether these advantages could have been secured by any other measure?—The answer was, that all these advantages were secured by the Convention, and could not have been, he thought, by any other measure. He was of opinion that our army could not have prevented the French from retiring across the Tagus.

In these opinions Major-Gen. SPENCER generally concurred; but as to whether the same advantages could have been derived from any other measure as from the Convention, he observed, that the result of military operations being necessarily uncertain, he could not take upon himself to assert what might have been the event. The artillery consisted of nine-pounders. The Convention in his opinion was similar to that in Egypt, in 1801.

Brigadier-Gen. NIGHTINGALE was nearly of the same opinion as the other two Generals.

Sir A. WELLESLEY was then asked some questions, to which he replied—That the heavy artillery could not have been brought forward if landed at Mondego Bay; the roads through Portugal being very bad, and very narrow, that even if a large number of horses were employed to draw heavy artillery on travelling carriages, it could not be effected; but it was evident from his narrative and the questions put to him before, that the horses with the army were only in sufficient numbers to draw the field train.

The PRESIDENT said that there would not be any proceedings farther until the arrival of Sir H. Burrard, who was hourly expected.—Adjourned *sine die*.

LAW.

ARCHES COURT, DOCTORS COMMONS.

Monday, Nov. 21.

BLOGRAVE v. BLOGRAVE.

This was originally a case of Restitution of conjugal rights brought by Lady Blograve against Sir George Berney Blograve, Bart. her husband, but it had since assumed a different appearance, and was now become a cause of divorce, or separation from bed, board, and mutual cohabitation on the part of Sir George against Lady Blograve, by reason of adultery. From the proceedings and evidence in the cause, the material facts appeared to be these—That Sir G. Blograve was an officer in the East Norfolk Militia, and that whilst he was with his regiment, in 1805 and 1806, accompanied by his Lady, he became intimately acquainted with ——— Elwin, Esq. a Captain belonging to the same regiment, by his being invited with other officers to dine with him. That during such invitations, it was observed by the servants of the house, that great familiarities passed between Lady B. and Capt. B. and that they used frequently to walk out together. That at other times they were observed to be alone in a room for several hours at a time, and that at one time in particular, Lady Blograve was seen sitting on Capt. Elwin's knee, with her arms round his neck, and he kissing her. But the most material facts were deposed to by Ann Wiles

(Lady Blograve's own servant), who accompanied Lady Blograve on her journey to Stamford, when she paid a lying-in visit to her sister. The facts here deposed to by this witness went to prove, that at the different inns on the road to and from Stamford, Capt. Elwin always met Lady Blograve, and although separate bed-rooms were ordered for each party, it was clear that two persons had slept therein. This witness's testimony was confirmed by the evidence of the chamber-maids, and the other servants belonging to the different inns where the parties slept. In addition to this evidence, there were likewise several letters of Capt. Elwin's produced, addressed to Lady B.; which letters contained the strongest expressions of affection.

The Court was clearly of opinion, that the facts of adultery was fully established against the wife; and accordingly pronounced for the remedy which the husband prayed.

POLICE.

HATTON-GARDEN.

The Committee of Paving for St. Clement Danes, were on Thursday summoned before the Magistrates, in consequence of a Bill of Indictment having been found against them for a nuisance, in permitting the stoppage of the thoroughfare through the Strand for several months, occasioned by their permitting Mr. Moessard, the confectioner, next door to the Crown and Anchor, to dig an ice well in front of his house.

Mr. COLLIER, the Vestry Clerk, with much flippancy, said, that he thought the persons who had preferred the indictment must be *mad!* In reply to which, the Magistrate observed, that he had been before applied to on this subject, and he rather thought that the *whole parish must be mad* for not having indicted the nuisance long since.—When Mr. Collier explained, by saying that leave would not have been granted had it been supposed that any inconvenience would have resulted. Accidents had occurred; the ground had fallen in; and though the original expence was estimated at only 150l. the work had now cost 1500l. and it was even doubtful whether the job could at last be accomplished.—Bail was entered into to the amount of 200l.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

On Wednesday morning, Palmer was executed for a burglary in Manchester-square, and for cutting and maiming a person who endeavoured to prevent his escape. Palmer was an old offender, and a desperate character. Whilst under sentence of death in Newgate, he conceived a plan of escape, which would have involved him in the additional crime of murder. He communicated his intentions to a fellow-prisoner, in a similar situation with himself, who gave his consent. It was arranged between them to attempt their plan on the following Sunday, when the prisoners and principal turnkeys were attending divine service (from which Palmer and his associate were to excuse themselves on account of illness). Their scheme was to assassinate the keeper in the Press-yard, in the first instance; and as there was only another turnkey, whose situation was on the inside of the outer gate, he was the only person who would interpose between them and their liberty; him they hoped to subdue by threats, and to be able to confine him in a place of safety; but in case of resistance, it would be necessary to dispose of him in the same manner as his comrade. The confident of Palmer, not being so hardened in iniquity as himself, communicated to Mr. Newman the scheme, when a search was made, and a rope-ladder with several instruments, were found about the bed of Palmer. Finding himself foiled, his mind became for some time so agitated that he could not apply himself to prayer. As the period approached for his execution, he seemed desirous to have the term extended for one week, to the end, he stated, that he might have the more time to make his peace with God. His request was refused. He therefore demeaned himself properly to all about him, confessed the justice of his sentence, and professed to die in charity with all men. He made a full confession of every robbery he had been concerned in. On passing through the Press-yard, he invoked a blessing on all his fellow-prisoners, and requested of Dr. Ford that the cap might not be drawn over his face until the moment it was absolutely necessary. A silk handkerchief, which he had in his pocket for the purpose, was at his earnest request tied over his eyes. He attempted to address the mob from the platform, but his speech failed him. He contented himself with bowing to the populace. His conduct to the last moment on the platform was becoming and proper, and such as fully accorded with the promise he had latterly made, that he would die a true penitent.

A man of the name of *Neighbour*, who had been convicted of a detestable crime, was ordered for execution next Wednesday. As soon as the death-warrant arrived, notice of it was given to him, which he received with marks of the greatest distress. On Thursday night another prisoner under sentence of death was placed in his cell to sit up with him. About four o'clock in the afternoon, a pot of porter made warm was taken into him, and he was locked up for the night. Between eleven and twelve o'clock he became so ill, that the person who was with him alarmed the watchman, and desired Mr. Newman might be sent for. Upon Mr. Newman's arrival, he immediately procured medical assistance, when it was discovered the prisoner had been poisoned, and on examining the porter pot, it was found that he had taken arsenic; the remains of which were left in the bottom of the pot. He languished in the greatest agony till about four o'clock in the morning, when he expired.

On Friday morning, a respectable middle-aged man called a coach, and ordered the coachman to drive to Bayswater. When he arrived at Tyburn turnpike, the coachman asked for his fare. Upon which the Gentleman said, "You shall have it;" and instantly took a razor from his pocket and cut his throat from ear to ear: he died immediately. The body was carried to the Mary-le-bone Infirmary.

On Friday afternoon, a young Gentleman, clerk to Mr. Williams, the barrister, hung himself at Mr. Williams's chambers in the Temple. He was married only a few months ago. The cause of this fatal act is not known. The body was warm when cut down, but the medical aid proved ineffectual.

BIRTHS.

On Sunday last, at Bath, the Lady of Sir John Louis, Bart. R. N. of a son and heir.

MARRIAGES.

On Thursday, at St. George's, Queen-square, Henry Dyett, Esq. of Doughty-street, to Harriet Maria, eldest daughter of Malcolm Ross, Esq. of Red-Lion-square.

On Tuesday last, at Beverly, Mr. T. Todd, gardener, to Miss *Dorothy Robinson*, after a month's tedious courtship. The bride was eight times the age of her bridemaid, and the bridegroom nearly treble the age of the father.

DEATHS.

On Saturday se'nnight, Mr. Thomas Grist, of the Low Pavement, Nottingham, and formerly of the Theatres, Hull, York, Leeds, and Sheffield.

At St. Croix, in September last, Capt. John Pohlman, of the 36th regiment.

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